



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area

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SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

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PARK LANDS IN SIMI HILLS AREA REOPEN WITH RESTRICTED ACCESS

With the Topanga Fire now controlled, the National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), announces the opening of those portions of the Simi Hills that have been affected by the fire.

Previously closed on September 28, 2005 to protect public safety, the Cheeseboro, Palo Comado, Liberty and Upper Las Virgenes Canyons are now open for restricted use. Park officials expect the restrictions to continue for at least one year or until the area has had a chance to stabilize and begin the recovery process.

During the restriction period, the public must stay on established roads and trails and observe all posted closure signs. Access to the public parkland will be permitted from sunrise to sunset. And as always, motorized vehicles will not be allowed.

Superintendent of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Woody Smeck said, "By complying with the restrictions, the public and park neighbors can play a vital role in the restoration process of our land, wildlife, vegetation, and cultural resources."

In the short-term, visitors who recreate in the Simi Hills area should expect to see a blackened landscape with pockets of unburned vegetation. Many oak trees, while scorched, will survive as they have during past fires. Over time, the land will begin to change as vegetation resprouts, wildflowers bloom, and many wildlife species return to the area.

NPS and SMMC staffs and volunteers will enforce of the restrictions by increasing the number of law enforcement patrols. The restrictions are in accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations Section 1.5(a), the California Public Resources Code 33211.6 and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Ordinance 1-2005, as amended.

Maps of the Santa Monica NRA are available at the NPS Visitor Center, 401 W. Hillcrest Drive in Thousand Oaks, by calling (805) 370-2301 or on line at: www.nps.gov/samo. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy at www.smmc.ca.gov or www.lamountains.com.

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